

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 IO-13

ADP-00 OMB-01 TAR-02 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 OIC-04 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 CEA-02 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 /189 W
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R 221700 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9992

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRN, UNCTAD, OECD

SUBJ: UNCTAD: PREPARATIONS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

SUMMARY: GROUP B (DEVELOPED) COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED ACCEPT UNCTAD SYG PROPOSAL SHORTEN AUGUST SESSION TO TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD BY ONE WEEK (AUGUST 21- SEPTEMBER 7) AND KEEP NUMBER OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES TO TWO. SECRETARIAT THINKS MONETARY AND TRADE POLICY LIKELY TO BE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECTS. DECISION MAY BE TAKEN ABOUT TIMING OF UNCTAD IV. OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED AT SYG INFORMAL CONSULTATION JUNE 20 AND IN GROUP B JUNE 21 WERE MEETING OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS REGARDING REGIONAL INTEGRATION, COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS, DATE OF SHIPPING COMMITTEE, REFORM OF UNCTAD, AND ECONOMIC CHARTER. END SUMMARY.

1. UNCTAD SYG PEREZ- GUERRERO (PG) HELD INFORMAL CONSULTATION JUNE 20 WITH GROUP LEADERS TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR AUGUST TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB XIII). ISSUES RAISED WERE FOLLOWING:

A. DATE TDB. PG SAID NUMBER OF DELS WISHED
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SHORTEN SESSION BY ONE WEEK BECAUSE OF OVERLAP WITH TOKYO GATT MINISTERIAL MEETING AND SUGAR CONFERENCE. HE SUGGESTED BOARD START AUGUST 21 AM, FINISH SUBSUBSTANTIVE WORK BY SEPTEMBER 7 AND ADOPT REPORT SETEMBER 11. WITHOUT COMMITTING THEIR GROUPS, MOST COORDINATORS SUPPORTED PROPOSAL AND NONE OBJECTED. GROUP B COORDINATOR (MILLER US) TOOK NO POSITION BUT NOTED GROUP GENERALLY FAVORS SHORTER MEETINGS AND SAID HE THOUGHT GROUP WOULD

BE CONCERNED THAT SHORTEND SESSION NOT BE USED AS REASON FOR RESUMED SESSION. BOTH POINTS CONFIRMED AT GROUP B MEETING. (NO ONE IN GROUP B SAW ANY BASIS ON WHICH GROUP COULD OBJECT TO SHORT-

ER MEETING.) COLOMBIA SAID CONFLICT WITH TOKYO MEETING CONSTITUTES FORCE MAJEURE AND RESUMED SESSION MAY BE NEEDED.

B. SESSIONAL COMMITTEES: PG SUGGESTED THREE SESSIONAL COMMITTEES: (I) REPORTS OF UNCTAD BODIES (ITEM 6); (II) TRADE RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES HAVING DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS (ITEM 9); AND (III) RES 81 (III) ON EVOLUTION OF UNCTAD MACHINERY (ITEM 11 A). MOST GROUP COORDINATORS THOUGHT THREE COMMITTEES WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO COPE WITH. PHILIPPINES AND SECRETARIAT RELUCTANT COMBINE COMMITTEE II AND III ABOVE BECAUSE SENSITIVITY OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND BECAUSE 15(II) REFERS TO SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON THIS SUBJECT. PG CONCLUDED WILL HAVE TWO SESSIONAL COMMITTEES BY ELIMINATING SEPARATE COMMITTEE FOR RES 8(III) AND COMBINING IT WITH COMMITTEE HANDLING REPORTS (E. G. COMBINE I AND III ABOVE). GROUP B SUBSEQUENTLY SUGGESTED COORDINATOR TRY AGAIN COMBINE II AND III ABOVE BUT ACCEPT PG PROPOSAL IF THIS PROVES UNACCEPTABLE. AT REQUEST OF UK, COORDINATOR TO INQUIRE ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING HANDLING OF COCOA MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION STUDY.

C. AGENDA. PG INDICATED RES 84(III) ON COORDINATION AND 82(III) ON MTN WOULD BE PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEMS. DATE OF UNCTAD IV WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED. PHILIPPINES WANT EARLY DECISION BECAUSE ASIA WILL HOST TRADITIONAL GROUP OF 77 MINISTERIAL MEETING PRIOR TO UNCTAD IV AND MUST KNOW TIMING WELL IN ADVANCE. COORDINATORS AGREED NOT SCHEDULE GENERAL DEBATE. ANY COUNTRY WISHING MAKE GENERAL REMARKS, HOWEVER, WILL BE ABLE DO SO UNDER AGENDA ITEMS DEALING WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CONFERENCE (ITEM4). TEXT OF DRAFT (PICKETT).

D. RESOLUTION 48(III) PG SAID HE HAS CONSULTED MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS; ALL FAVOR MEETING AND HE HAS SCHEDULED MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 6-12, PER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARA. 9 RES 48(III). SAID HE WAS NOW USING MEETING TO CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENTS AS REQUIRED IN RESOLUTION. AT

SUBSEQUENT GROUP B MEETING, DELS RECOGNIZED PG INTENDS
HOLD MEETING AND SIMPLY GOING THROUGH FORMAL PROCEDURE
OF CONSULTATIONS. NO DEL OBJECTED.

2. IN ADDITION TO CONSIDERING MATTERS RAISED BY PG, GROUP
B ON JUNE 21 DISCUSSED FOLLOWING ISSUES: COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS,
DATES OF SHIPPING MEETINGS, REFORM OF UNCTAD AND ECONOMIC
CHARTER.

A. COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS. GROUP RECEIVED REPORT ON
STATUS SECRETARIAT THINKING AND TCWP MEETING (GENEVA 3031).
THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT GROUP B COULD REMAIN SILENT ON POSSIBLE
INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS ON COFFEE SINCE THIS PRINCIPALLY INTRA- LDC
PROBLEM. NO ONE EXPECTED ITS GOVERNMENT TO OBJECT IF
COFFEE INCLUDED. GROUP B SPOKESMAN, HOWEVER, WILL SAY, IF COFFEE
IS ADDED, GROUP MUST BE CONSULTED IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER
SUBSTITUTIONS

OR ADDITIONS OF COMMODITIES IN PROPOSED PROGRAM.

B. SHIPPING MEETINGS. IN VIEW OF HEAVY SCHEDULE OF
UNCTAD MEETINGS ON SHIPPING IN FALL, GROUP AGREED, THAT EVEN
THOUGH PROSPECTS NOT BRIGHT, COORDINATOR SHOULD TRY OBTAIN POST-
PONEMENT OF UNCTAD SHIPPING COMMITTEE NOW SCHEDULED FOR
OCTOBER 16-26.

C. REFORM OF UNCTAD (RES 81(III). MOST MAJOR
GROUP B COUNTRIES REPLIED TO PG' S NOTE INDICATING THEY
SEE NO NECESSITY CHANGE BASIC STRUCTURE OF MACHINERY OF
UNCTAD AS SUGGESTED IN RES 81(III), WHICH THEY CONTINUE
TO OPPOSE.

D. ECONOMIC CHARTER. ONLY FIVE GROUP B COUNTRIES
HAVE REPLIED TO PG' S NOTE ON CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND
DUTIES OF STATES. SEVERAL INDICATED THEY PLAN TO REPLY. UK
REPORTED SOME LDCS WORKING ON DRAFT TEXT OF CHARTER AND
MAY TRY GET JULY MEETING BEGIN DRAFTING BODY OF CHARTER.
WHILE MORE MODERATE LDCS WOULD BE SATISFIED IF JULY MEETING
ONLY RESULTED IN DRAFT OUTLINE, GROUP RECOGNIZED MAY NOT BE
POSSIBLE COMPLETELY AVOID DRAFTING IF THOSE WISHING TO START
PREPARITN TEXTS PRESS ISSUE. BASSIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GENEVA03074
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730627/aaaajmkr.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980224
Subject: UNCTAD: PREPARATIONS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS
TAGS: EGEN, ETRN, OECD, UNCTAD
To: EB
OECD PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005